

# Interpretive Programs

## And other park events

### Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stukey



*Eastern Phoebe*

**Nature Center Staff:**

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

**March Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CST**

**Open Tuesday - Sunday. Closed Mondays**

**[www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)**

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

#### **Friday March 6**

**7pm Birding the Big Year.** Join us for a special presentation by local birder John Kendall. John broke the record in 2008 for most species of birds seen in Indiana in one year. John will highlight his record breaking year with photos and many stories that capture his exciting year. Program takes place in the Nature Center Auditorium. Co-sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Migratory Bird Association.

#### **Saturday March 7**

**10am Skunk Cabbage Search.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for an investigative search for the first wildflower of the year... the skunk cabbage! Get stinky with us on this 45-minute easy stroll! DG

**2pm Just a Few Furs.** Examine animal skulls and furs and help us explore how the Indiana Dunes' mammals tough out the winter. Meet in the (heated) Nature Center Auditorium. Join us! DG

#### **Sunday March 8**

*Daylight Savings Begins Today*

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

**2pm Return of the Red-wings.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for an afternoon search for the annual sign of spring... Red-winged Blackbirds. We'll venture into the marsh, before returning from the Wilson Shelter. Bring your binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. BB

#### **Saturday March 14**

*Welcome St. Patrick's Day Runners!*

**10am Phoebe Time!** Join a naturalist on a 45 minute discovery hike looking for the first Phoebes of the year. They traditionally arrive now and begin setting up their nests. We meet at the Nature Center for this easy stroll. Bring the family and join us! BB

**2pm Shipwreck Stories!** Imagine going down in the icy cold waters of Lake Michigan! Not so hard to imagine if you were the crew of the J.D.Marshall. Join the Naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium for a look at the dunes' shipwreck stories. BB

### **Sunday March 15**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

**2pm Leprechaun Hunt!** Help a naturalist use his GPS unit to find leprechauns and their gold. Meet in front of the Nature Center for a 45 minute hunt. Great family fun and prizes for the kids! BB

### **Saturday March 21**

**10am Spring Stroll!** With spring less than a week away, join the naturalist for an easy stroll through the dune woodlands in search of signs of spring! Meet at the Nature Center for this 1 hour stroll. DG

**1pm Leopold Bench Workshop.** Join other nature enthusiasts this afternoon for a special look at the legacy of Aldo Leopold. Participants will also get a chance to construct their own Leopold bench to take home. Registration costs \$30 and can be made by calling the Nature Center at 219-926-1390. Limited number of spots available.

### **Sunday March 22**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

**2pm Critter Feeding Time.** Spring into the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun time as we feed the Nature Center animals. Come watch them eat or maybe even help out! Great family program! DG

### **Tuesday March 24**

**7pm Image Makers Nature Photo Club.** The Image Makers Nature Photography Club meets every month. After a special program, the group shares nature photos from the Duneland area. If you enjoy photography, this group is a great informal way to find others that share your interest. Program meets in the Nature Center Auditorium. Grab your camera and join us!



### **Saturday March 28**

*Welcome Potawatomi Hikers!*

**10am Scatology!** Learn to ID an animal without seeing them. Animals not only leave tracks but also leave scat. Meet in the Nature Center auditorium for this fun look at what animals leave behind! Prizes for those that know their scat! DG

**2pm Fire on the Prairie!** Bring out your inner pyro-maniac in this exciting hour at the Nature Center. Learn how prescribed fire is used to help our habitats, and then help the naturalist start a fire! Kids under 12, please bring a parent. Join us! BB DG

### **Sunday March 29**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

**2pm Vernal Ponds.** Come discover what we have growing in our vernal ponds. Learn the difference between vernal and permanent ponds in this 45-minute stroll. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

### **Reserve a special hike or program for your group!**

Naturalists have been helping visitors get the most from their duneland adventures since 1931. Separate from public programming, the interpretive naturalist service of the park remains available today, revealing the secrets of the dunes to school, church, company, and scout groups year round with a variety of tailored programs and hikes. For a \$1.00 per person fee, reservations can be made from 6 months to two weeks in advance. The Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center is now scheduling spring field trips! Call the Nature Center and schedule your group's adventure today! (219) 926-1390